

Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee

Presentation to the MMS Policy
Committee

Michael Fry, OCS SC Member

OCS SC Mission

- Advise Secretary of the Interior via Director of MMS on OCS Environmental Studies Program (ESP) feasibility, appropriateness, scientific value
- Review relevance of research and data produced to meet MMS scientific information needs

Summary of Last Meeting

New Orleans, 22 to 24 May 2007

- **Director's Presentation (LaBelle)**
- **Gulf Region Update (Christopher)**
- **Alternative Energy Update (Bornholdt & Fry)**
- **Policy Committee Update (Carrillo)**
- **Gulf of Mexico Alliance (Griffith)**
- **Collaborative Efforts (Cimato)**
- **LSU Coastal Marine Institute (Rouse)**
- **The Offshore Imperative (Priest)**

ESP Review

- Breakout Groups by Discipline
 - Biology/Ecology
 - Physical Oceanography
 - Socioeconomics
- Information Needs
- Proposed Research Studies

Gulf of Mexico Region

- Gulf Region deserves special recognition for work its dedicated staff put in to recover so quickly after 2005 hurricane season.
- Deepwater ESP
 - Corals
 - Continental Slope
 - Cooperative Deepwater Research
 - Loop Current
- Socioeconomics



Alaska Region



- Chukchi Offshore Monitoring in Drilling Area (COMIDA)
- North Aleutian Basin (NAB)
- High level of activity with lease planning and sales, and Environmental Studies



Northstar Island – August 2006

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Headquarters

- Alternative Energy and Alternate Use Workshop
- Birds and Offshore Wind Development in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic
- ESP for Alternative Uses



Recommendations

- Continued effort is needed to make MMS data available.
- Continue collaborative funding efforts with other agencies and explore ways to involve industry.
- ESP needs to respond rapidly to alternative energy research needs.

Recommendations

- ESP regional components need to increase their interaction with one and other to enhance transferable research and data.
- Re-establish sand and gravel research program.

Next OCS SC Meeting

Alaska Region

Anchorage

May 7 - 9, 2008

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